

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Construction of the Mararikulam beach road.

1. ***Mr. E. P. Varghese** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) why nothing is done towards the construction of the Mararikulam beach road at the 2nd furlong of the 8th mile of the Alleppey-Aroor road although tenders have been called even in 1110;

(b) why the money allotted for that in the last year's budget has been allowed to lapse; and

(c) why no fresh tender has been yet called although the Chief Engineer has ordered it?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (a) and (b) As necessary lands have not been acquired and handed over to the P. W. D.

(c) Fresh tenders are being called for.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: With reference to the answer to parts (a) and (b), may I know when the Chief Engineer asked for the acquisition of the land?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I claim notice.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: What is the amount of money required for the acquisition of the land?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Rs. 854.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: Did not the people say that they would give the land, required for the purpose, free?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Yes; but there is still a small portion which has got to be acquired.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: What is the reason for so much of delay in the acquisition of such a small bit of land?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Whether the land is big or small in extent, the proceedings that have to be gone through by the Land Revenue Department are the same. I do not think there has been any special delay in this case.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: May I know then, why provision for this purpose was made even in the Budget for last year, 1110?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I must have funds allotted before I can ask for land to be acquired. I cannot start proceedings until I have been allotted the money required for the purchase.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: Will it not suffice if money is obtained just when it is necessary for payment?

President: The Chief Engineer has already told you that he could not take any steps in that direction unless he has the necessary allotments sanctioned by the House for that purpose.

and that he could not move in the matter without the required money.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Why were tenders called for even before acquisition proceedings were begun ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : To save time.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Has any time been saved in the present instance ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : Ordinarily, we should have saved some time.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Does the one year's delay, in this instance, show that there is any saving of time ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : Sir, the member knows all about the subject. There was a faulty tender. That is the reason for the delay.

Mr. Komilezhathu Sankarn (*Nominated*) : Has the land been acquired now ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : No, but we have lands enough for the work to be started.

Issue of contracts to non-Travancoreans for construction of roads.

2. ***Mr. E. P. Varghese** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether contracts for the construction of roads in the State are given to non-Travancoreans ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : No, not generally.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know why even in exceptional cases contracts for the construction of the roads should be given to non-Travancoreans ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : There have been only two exceptions in which contracts, for the supply of road material, for roads in Perumpavur, Kuttamangalam and one other place, were given to non-Travancoreans ; and that was because their quotations were better.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : May I point out to the member that the question is about contracts for the construction of roads and not for the supply of road material ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : In regard to road construction, so far as I know, no contract has been given to any non-Travancorean.

Enquiry re nationality of applicants for entry into public service.

3. ***Mr. E. P. Varghese** : Will the Government be pleased to state :